

Prior law relative to the Dept. of Transportation and Development authorized the office of highways to annually expend a reasonable amount of the general highway fund for the establishment, construction, and maintenance of bicycle paths, which may be established wherever a highway, road, or street is being constructed, reconstructed, or relocated.

Prior law authorized a parish or municipality to expend a reasonable amount of funds received from the general highway fund for the establishment, construction, and maintenance of bicycle paths.

Prior law prohibited the establishment of bicycle paths where the office of highways determines that establishment of a path is contrary to public safety, the cost of the path is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use, or other factors indicating an absence of any need for such paths.

Prior law limited the amount of money expended by the office of highways in any one fiscal year to not more than 1% of the total funds appropriated to the general highway fund.

Prior law authorized any municipality or parish receiving funds from the general highway fund to expend at least 1% of those funds for the establishment of bicycle paths.

Prior law required the office of highways to recommend construction standards for bicycle paths and to provide a uniform system of marking paths. The use of bicycle paths were restricted to pedestrians and nonmotorized vehicles.

New law retains prior law but changes all references in prior law from the "office of highways" to the "department" and all references from the "general highway fund" to the "transportation trust fund" or the "parish transportation fund".

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 16, 1999).

(Amends R.S. 48:163.1)